

June 30, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC CLOSES FINAL PROJECT FROM FIRST ROUND
NEBRASKA INTERNET ENHANCEMENT FUND GRANTS**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission completed the final chapter on the first round Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund (NIEF) projects with approval of the final payment to Nemaha County.

The Nemaha County Economic Alliance successfully proposed a project to bring enhanced wireless broadband services to the region. With the completion of the project, Nemaha County plus some neighboring rural areas now have a wireless Internet service option.

The plan that was awarded a NIEF grant on January 11, 2005, featured eight wireless tower sites, configuration of the network, testing each component, and adding 70 subscribers with a goal of 120 subscribers on board within 12 months of completion.

The Commission approved final payment of \$22,310.31 from NIEF at its June 27, 2006 meeting. NIEF was created by the Nebraska Legislature and is currently funded by the state's share of receipts from the leasing of dark fiber owned by public entities. A goal of NIEF is to provide incentives to bring broadband services to rural or sparsely populated parts of Nebraska.

First District Commissioner Frank Landis of Lincoln said, "This was a project of exceptional quality for the first round of the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund. It fits well with the Legislature's concept in establishing the fund to bring enhanced Internet offerings to rural Nebraska. Nemaha County organizers of this effort are to be commended for their foresight in using NIEF for the benefit of the county's residents and I am happy to represent them on the Nebraska Public Service Commission."

Four other first round NIEF grants have been granted to Box Butte County, Cheyenne County, Dawes County, and the City of Chappell.

The Public Service Commission recently announced the second round of NIEF grants which are currently in a pre-application stage. Information on the second round of NIEF grants is

available from the Commission's web site at <http://www.psc.state.ne.us> or by contacting the Public Service Commission in Lincoln (800) 526-0017.

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